

# Good Neighbor Environmental Board ROUND-UP

*Board and environmental news along the U.S.-Mexico border*

Volume 4, Number 1  
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\*This issue marks beginning of fourth year of publication.

## **Good Neighbor Board News**

*from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board  
March 2003 Round-Up*

### Upcoming 2003 Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings

April 9-10 Deming, New Mexico

July 30-31 Del Rio, Texas

October 22-23 San Diego, California

### **Final Preparations Under Way for Deming Meeting, Launch of Sixth Report**

Deming Meeting Planning committee members finalized preparations for the Board's first border-community meeting of 2003. Deming, New Mexico Mayor Samuel Baca is scheduled to open the meeting and Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department Ron Curry is scheduled to offer brief remarks later in the day.

The Board also completed preparation of its Sixth Report to the President and Congress, due to be published next month.

### **New Members Take Part in Teleconference Orientation Session**

New Board members Amanda Aguirre, Valecia Gavin, Ken Ramirez, and Doug Smith took part in a New Member Orientation teleconference call on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Also on the call were Chair Placido dos Santos, Marilyn Kuray from EPA's Office of General Counsel. OCEM staff present included Designated Federal Officer (DFO) Elaine Koerner, Associate DFO Oscar Carrillo, Lois Williams, and Geraldine Brown. New members Mayor Dora Alcala and Paul Ganster were unable to take part in the call.

### **DFO Speaks on Board's Work at U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce 7<sup>th</sup> Border Issues Event**

Board DFO Elaine Koerner joined a panel of environmental specialists to discuss the role of the Board in contributing to better understanding of environmental issues facing the border region during the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Border Issues Conference. She took the opportunity to preview the Board's upcoming Sixth Report, and to invite input on the theme for the Seventh Report: links between children's health in border communities and local environmental conditions. Panel Moderator was Paul Ganster, Professor at San Diego State University and also a new Board member. Congressional Representatives who spoke included Silvestre Reyes of Texas, Jim Kolbe of Arizona, and Ciro Rodriguez of Texas.

\*\*\*Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.\*\*\*

## **Border Region & National News**

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**Air Quality** - EPA Administrator Christie Whitman has signed 13 final rules to reduce toxic air emissions from industrial facilities across the United States. The facilities in this set of rules include brick and structural clay products manufacturing, semiconductor production, and other industries. In addition, Administrator Whitman

has announced winners of the Clean Air Excellence Awards; the Education/Outreach category includes the California Air Resources Board.

**Award** - The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has received the American Lung Association of Arizona's 2002 Clean Air Award.

**BECC** - Nine project applications were submitted to BECC during February 2003. See [www.cocef.org](http://www.cocef.org)

**Book** - The Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California-San Diego, announces publication of "Cross-Border Dialogues, U.S.-Mexico Social Movement Networking." See <http://usmex.ucsd.edu>

**Border 2012 Program** - The signing ceremony for the Border 2012 Program will take place on April 4<sup>th</sup> in Tijuana, B.C., with a reception preceding the ceremony on the evening of April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**CEC** - The CEC Secretariat has released a document called "Understanding and Anticipating Environmental Change in North America."

**Desalination** - According to a recent article in Frontera (Tijuana), a newly-completed water master plan for the Tijuana-Rosarito area will cost US\$1.245 billion to complete over the next 20 years, and will include construction of a desalination plant and a waste-water treatment facility, as well as expansion of an existing facility.

**Grant** - The Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC) has announced its 2003 Request for Proposals for its U.S.-Mexico Borderlands Collaborative Grants Competition. The program was created to increase involvement of higher education institutions with community-based organizations and other institutions from both sides of the border.

**Grant** - EPA invites proposals for regional and state-based Persistent Bioaccumulative and Toxic (PBT) projects. Deadline: April 11<sup>th</sup>. See [www.epa.gov/oppt/pbt](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/pbt)

**IBWC** - Carlos Pena has been selected as the new IBWC U.S. Foreign Affairs Secretary.

**NADBank** - NADBank has approved a US\$1.3 million grant to help finance a wastewater treatment facility replacement and sewer system improvements project for the town of Patagonia, Arizona. See [www.nadb.org](http://www.nadb.org)  
In addition, Heber, California held the groundbreaking of its water and wastewater improvements project partially funded by NADBank through its EPA-funded BEIF fund.

## **Power Plants -**

**Tribal lands** - EPA Region 9 is soliciting proposals for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure improvements on Indian lands within the U.S.-Mexico border. Proposals must be postmarked by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Wastewater** - EPA is providing approximately 4,000 city and county public health officials with a CD-based kit that contains educational materials on proper septic system management.  
[www.epa.gov/npdes/wastewatermonth](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/wastewatermonth)

**Water Supplies** - According to a recent article in Greenwire, a water-sharing proposal aimed at restoring California's supply of Colorado River water has been agreed upon by the Imperial Irrigation District, the San Diego County Water Authority, the Coachella Valley Water District, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

## Events Calendar

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Please check a primary source for accuracy. **Events specific to border region are in bold.** Web sites may have to be re-entered. Please notify Editor of changes.\*\*\*

- Mar 31 Public Hearing on New Source Review Reforms, Dallas, TX [www.epa.gov/nsr/](http://www.epa.gov/nsr/)
- Apr 1-3 USGS Conference on Natural Science and Public Health, Reston, VA
- Apr 3** BECC Board meeting, El Paso, TX
- APR 9-10** **GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, DEMING, NM**
- Apr 9-12** Association for Borderland Studies annual meeting, Las Vegas, NV
- Apr 28-30** Border Institute V; State of the Border Environment and Health of Its Peoples: Indicators of Progress, 1990-2020, Rio Rico, AZ [www.scerp.org](http://www.scerp.org)
- May 7-8 CEC: National Advisory Committee (NAC)/Government Advisory Committee (GAC) to the U.S. Representative meeting, Washington, DC
- May 15** Border Journalism Conference, Tijuana, BC
- May 15-17** Encuentro Fronterizo Conference, Tijuana, Baja California [www.encuentrofronterizo.org](http://www.encuentrofronterizo.org)
- May 27-30** 61<sup>st</sup> U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association Annual Mtg., San Diego, CA [www.usmbha.org](http://www.usmbha.org)
- June 23-25 CEC Annual Council Session, Washington, DC
- July 30-31** **GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, DEL RIO, TX**
- July 30-Aug 1 Conference: Water Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Washington, DC Contact: [mskerly@siu.edu](mailto:mskerly@siu.edu)
- Aug 6-8** Border Governors Conference, Chihuahua, Chih., MX
- OCT 22-23** **GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, SAN DIEGO, CA**
- Oct 26-29 2003 Texas Recycling Summit, Galveston Island, TX [www.recycletx.com](http://www.recycletx.com)
- Dec 3-4 CDC: 6<sup>th</sup> National Environmental Health Conference, Atlanta, GA

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Editor: Elaine Koerner, Designated Federal Officer, Good Neighbor Environmental Board (415)972-3437